

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in the application prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner allows claims 2-12, 15-16, 19-30, 33-36, and 48.

The examiner rejects claims 1, 13, 17-18, 31, 37-44, 46-47, and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,143). The Examiner rejects claims 14, 32, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga.

The applicants amend claims 13, 17, 19, 26, 31, 33-34, and 37-38 and cancel claims 1, 18, 39-47, and 49-50. Claims 2-17, 19-38, and 48 remain in the application after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowable

While the applicants continue to disagree with the examiner regarding the teachings of Suga as applied to claims 1, 13-14, 17-18, 31-32, 37-45, 46-47, and 49-50, the applicants have amended the application to leave only allowed claims pending. More particularly, the applicants amend claims 13 and 17 to depend from allowed claim 2 and 31 and 37-38 to depend from allowed claim 19. The applicants cancel claims 1, 18, 39-47 and 49-50, without prejudice to presenting these claims in a continuation application, to expedited prosecution and issuance of the present application.

The applicants amend claims 19, 26, and 33-34 to correct typographical errors.

CONCLUSION

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims as amended. The applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 20575

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Graciela G. Cowger
Reg. No. 42,444

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 222-3613

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office via facsimile number
(703) 872-9306, on May 4, 2005.


Beth A. Nichols